Construction of Second Phase of Jakhapura-Banspani railway line from Daitori to Keonjhargarh in Orissa

*97. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the construction work of the Second Phase of Jakhapura-Banspani railway line from Daitori to Keonjhargarh in Orissa has not been started yet;

(b) whether considering the economic importance of the line Government propose to sanction funds for the construction of both the Second and Third phases of the above line so that it is completed within a reasonable time; and

(c) if so, the steps taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) After opening of Jakhapura-Daitori section of the railway project the anticipated traffic did not materialise. Construction of remaining section from Daitori to Banspani could not, therefore, be taken up.

(b) and (c) The construction of the section is being proposed for export of iron ore via Paradip port. Examination of the proposal by the concerned Ministries and MMTC, has not been completed.

Recommendations of the Report on Economy in Constructions

*98. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Report on Economy in Constructions made by the Planning Commission in 1968; and

(b) the follow-up action taken so far by Government on each of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Planning Commission constituted a Panel of Experts under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Thacker, in 1965 to advise on guidelines for Economy in Construction costs. There was no formal report of the Panel. However, recognising that construction programmes cover various sectors of development such as housing, transport, industry, irrigation, power, agriculture, education, health etc. the panel desired all the Ministries and organisations involved in construction activities to address vigorously the task of economies in construction costs. A subsequent Committee constituted by the then Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development formulated various recommendations on the basis of issues discussed in the Panel and its various subgroups. The recommendations cover the following major areas:

1. Pre-planning.
2. Designs and other technological factors.
3. Construction Materials.
4. Business of Constructing.
5. Administrative and Organisational factors.
6. Motivation, training and publicity.

(b) The details of various such actions and steps taken by the Government in the light of its planning strategy from time to time and in line with the above recommendations are indicated below:—

(1) The National Housing Policy (NHP) of 1988 commends construction of at least 10% of dwelling units by the housing-and construction agencies incorporating cost-effective technology.

(2) The National Buildings Code (NBC) of India was formulated in 1970 and was revised in 1983-84.

(3) NBO has brought out the "All India standards schedule of rates and specifications which has been widely circulated for adoption by various construction departments and agencies.

(4) A special standard (IS: 8888-78) to promote housing construction activity for the economically weaker sections was developed at the instance of the then Ministry of Works and Housing.